



Department of Health

Division of Mental Health
108 Cherry Street, PO Box 70.
Burlington, VT 05402-0070
Healthvermont.gov

[phone] 802-652-2000
[fax] 802-652-2005
[tty] 800-253-0191

Agency of Human Services

June 14, 2006

Dear Ward 1 Neighbors:

I am writing to update you on the Vermont State Hospital Futures Project and to answer questions and comments raised during our meeting with the Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly in April.

At that meeting, Agency of Human Services Secretary Cindy LaWare and I provided some background on the need to replace the state hospital with new inpatient facilities as envisioned in the Futures Plan. Attached is a Q&A document that addresses many of the questions and concerns that were raised.

In addition, I would like to make you aware of two public meetings we will be holding this summer to educate the greater Burlington community about the project and to answer questions:

- Thursday, July 13 – 7 p.m. – in Ward 1 – Location TBA
- Thursday, July 20 – 7 p.m. – in South Burlington – Location TBA

At these meetings, we will present information about:

- The reasons why replacing the Vermont State Hospital is necessary
- The unique advantages of Burlington as home to Vermont's sole teaching hospital.
- The utilization of psychiatric services provided at the Vermont State Hospital by Chittenden County residents.
- The timeline for this project

In addition, we will be soliciting volunteers to participate in a Task Force designed to involve Ward 1 residents, and other interested parties, in a detailed discussion about the siting of an inpatient facility on Fletcher Allen's Medical Center Campus. We hope that all of you will participate as much as your time will allow.

Integrating a primary inpatient psychiatric program on Fletcher Allen's Medical Center Campus will involve extensive planning and analysis regarding site evaluation. Your involvement is important and greatly appreciated. All meetings will be open to the public and broad participation is encouraged.

In addition to our work with Ward 1, we are keeping the Mayor's Office informed through regular contact with Ken Schatz. We will meet with Mayor Kiss and city department heads this week to brief them on the status of the project.

Finally, the state regulatory process requires that we file a Letter of Intent preceding work on a conceptual certificate of need (CON). We plan to file this letter on June 19th and brief the Joint Mental Health Legislative Oversight Committee the next day. You'll see the public notice in the [Burlington Free Press](#).

I hope to see some of you at the public meetings in July. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly, or Judy Rosenstreich, Senior Policy Advisor, Vermont Department of Health (jrosen@vdh.state.vt.us).

Sincerely,

/S/

Beth Tanzman
Futures Project Director
Vermont Department of Health
btanzman@vdh.state.vt.us